163. Need for the free entertainment of Catholic Christians of South Travancore in the lower ranks of the State service.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that the Catholic Christians of South Tavancore were very backward in education. There was not a single graduate among them in a population of about 80,000. There were a number of non-matriculates, who were fit for entertainment in the lower ranks of the State service, where no special qualification was needed. He did not say that the Christians, in general, were not encouraged in the matter of State patronage, but the Catholics of South Travancore could not be considered on the same footing, in the matter of education, as the other Christians in the State. He therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to issue a special order to the heads of departments to give preference to the Catholic Christian applicants of South Travancore for such appointments for which they were eligible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

164. Exclusion of Christians from the higher grades of the Revenue Branch of the administration and their paucity in the subordinate service generally.

Mr. K. N. Eippa, B. A., (Member, Nominated) said that those communities in a State which were behind the rest in point of education could rightly claim only a share in the public service proportionate to the number of educated men among them. The grievances of the Ezhavas and the Mahomedans and the depressed classes of the Hindus could not therefore be said to be so keen as those of the Christians. To serve the State and his fellow subjects in all possible ways was the privilege of every subject of a State. In other countries, such service could be rendered even without taking up Government employment. But to people who did not look upon wealth and other comforts as the *summum bonum* of life and who desired to take part in the initiation of State policy and the settlement of large questions affecting the country and its people, Travancore did not afford opportunities except through Government service. The exclusion of the Christians from the higher grades of service, especially of the Revenue branch, precluded them from getting into the training ground for the development of their talents and tended to damp their spirits. Viewed from the standpoints of population, literacy and examination qualification, the Christians could claim with caste Hindus an equal share of appointments in the service.

The Member then reviewed the number of higher appointments in each branch of the service as seen from the Quarterly Civil List and pointed out that the Christians did not get a sufficient share in the Government service consistently with their claims as judged by population and advancement in education and that they were notably excluded from the Land Revenue and Excise Departments and also from the Secretariat.

The only reason for the exclusion of the Christians from the Revenue Department was that the department combined in it the administration of Devaswoms and State Charities. That objection could be removed by separating those branches from the Revenue Department, as in Cochin and British India, and placing them under a separate Commissioner who might be drafted from among the first grade Tahsildars or Division Assistants, with subordinates recruited from the present subordinate staff. He therefore prayed for the separation of the two departments, thereby redressing a long-standing and patent grievance of the community.

As regards the paucity of the Christians in the subordinate service, the Member said that, if the Government would call for information from each department with respect to the number of caste Hindu and Christian subordinates and examine the same, the disproportion of the Christians would be glaring.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

165. Suggestions for removing the existing disabilities of Christians in the matter of appointments, etc.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappilla (Member, Nominated) said that as the previous speaker had dealt with the exclusion of the Christians from the higher ranks of public service, he would confine his subject mainly to the subordinate ranks of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly